# Social Security Administration
# Yolanda York

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMBAT & OPERATIONAL STRESS CONFERENCE 2010:
"TAKING ACTION, MEASURING RESULTS"

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# Social Security Benefits for Injured Service Members

# IT'S A WHOLE LOT *MORE* THAN JUST A RETIREMENT PROGRAM!

# DISABILITY AND SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS

- Disabled Workers

  -Over 5 million disabled workers receive benefits

- Spouses

- 7 million survivor's receive benefits

Children

- Over 1.6 million dependents of disabled workers receive benefits

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# Social Security

# Two Disability Programs

# Types of Benefits I Can Receive?

- Social Security disability insurance program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which pays based on financial need.

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# SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

- Meet two different earnings test:
  - Recent work
  - Duration of work
- In 2010, each $1,120 in covered wages earns one credit
  - Maximum of 4 credits per year
  - Maximum needed is 40 credits
  - Minimum of 6 credits are needed

# Definition of Disability

- Unable to do substantial work because of a medical condition(s)

- Medical condition(s) must last at least

  1-year or result in death

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# WHO DECIDES?

- The State Disability Determination Service (DDS)

They will ask your doctors:

- What your medical condition is;
- When your medical condition began;
- How your medical condition limits your activities;
-What the medical test have shown; and
-What treatment you have received.

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# Waiting Period – SSA Benefits

- 5 full calendar months.

  Example:

  Disability begins January 15, 2010

  Eligibility begins in July 2010

  First check in August 2010

- Benefits may be retroactive

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# How Does Military Pay Affect Eligibility for Disability Benefits?

- Active duty status and receipt of military pay does not, in itself, necessarily prevent payments of Social Security disability benefits.
- Receipt of military payments should never stop you from applying for disability benefits from Social Security.

# How Do I Apply?

- Any time while in Military status or after discharge, whether you are still hospitalized, in rehabilitation program or undergoing out-patient treatment in military or civilian medical facility.
- Apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors
- Phone/person (800)772-1213
- Alert the interviewer that your disability occurred while on active military duty

# How Long Does It Take?

- The length of time can vary, depending on several factors, but primarily on:

-The nature of your disability;
-How quickly we obtain medical evidence from your doctor or medical source; and
-Whether it is necessary to send you for a medical examination in order to obtain evidence to support your claim.

# Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- SSI makes monthly payments to people who have low income and few resources

- Whether you can get SSI depends on:
  - -Income
  - -Resources (things you own)
  - -Other rules you must meet

# Your Right to Appeal

## 4 Levels of Appeal

- **Reconsideration**
- **Hearing before Administrative Law Judge**
- **Appeals Council Review**
- **Federal Court**

**Appeal must be filed within 60 Days from receipt of notice.**

**May designate a representative to help you with your appeal**

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# Expedited Procedures for Military Cases

- Immediate Claims Taking
- Designated DDS people to process cases
- Special procedures for processing Wounded Warrior cases through out the country

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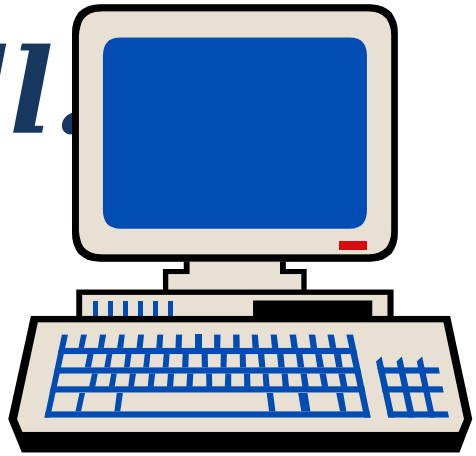
# *Visit Our Website . . .*

***or***

***Call.***



**www.socialsecurity.gov**

**1-800-772-1213**

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# Thank you for your Service

- Mention Wounded Warrior for expedited service
- When in doubt, contact SSA

# Need to Contact the Public Affairs Officer

Here is my name and number:

- Yolanda York
- (619) 557-5374
- yolanda.york@ssa.gov

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# Questions?

**WWW.SOCIALSECURITY.GOV**